

SCENES FROM TEMPE THE ICRI 2009 FALL CONVENTION

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Each year, the fall convention gives ICRI members the opportunity to contribute to important and ongoing committee work, learn something new from the technical presentations, and celebrate the winners of the coveted annual ICRI Project Awards. The ICRI 2009 Fall Convention, held October 21-23, 2009, at the Buttes, a Marriott Resort in Tempe, AZ, once again proved that membership in ICRI is more important than ever.

The official start of any convention is the Welcome Reception. Attendees gathered on Wednesday evening with a full complement of 35 exhibitors and met up with industry professionals from all over the world. Our local host, the ICRI Arizona Chapter, managed to slip in a golf outing that morning at the Karsten Golf Course in Tempe, showing off some fantastic weather.

Flooring Issues, the theme of this convention, allowed for members of the Technical Activities



The Welcome Reception allows friends to gather, like (from left to right): Keith Harrison, his wife Linda, Don Ford, ICRI 2009 President Randy Beard, Beth Newbold, and Pat Winkler



Enjoying the Welcome Reception are Katherine Blatz (left), Jeff Smith (center), and Connie Mugno (right)



Always smiling and greeting attendees are Caren Giles (left) and Carole Berrelez from ICRI



Kevin Michols (left), Dave Rodler (center), and Marty Sobelman (right) take some time during the convention to catch up

Committee to recruit a wide variety of the finest concrete repair professionals the industry has to offer for the technical sessions. They gave attendees a unique glimpse into what is going on in our industry. Topics such as self-levelers, the importance of curing, and some common sense advice about cracking were just a few of the dozen subjects presentations that provided some insight and prompted discussion.

Much of what ICRI does as an industry association comes from the work of the technical and administrative committees. We broaden our reach and expand the industry by working together in these committees; it seems a new committee is formed at each convention, drawing in more members to share their expertise. Committee meeting attendance was exceptional at this convention, with many first-time attendees getting involved. Visit the Technical Committee page of the ICRI Web site to see a full list of committees, which includes a description of what they are working on right now.

The convention's General Session during lunch on Thursday included the official welcome by ICRI Executive Director Kelly Page, who greeted the crowd with a rundown of all the exciting things happening at ICRI. Past President and active

member Peter Craig took the stage to bring everyone up to date on ICRI's most exciting project this year, the Moisture Testing Certification Program. Plans are moving along quickly, with a test class already under our belt, to bring this program to a national audience in early 2010. Buzz is high and anticipation is soaring as we get ready to launch ICRI's first certification course!



The Technical Sessions at each convention are always jam-packed with attendees and topical information



The exhibit area fills up throughout the convention as attendees take a look at what is new and noteworthy with the exhibitors

The General Session held during the lunch on Thursday is always crowded and full of information on what ICRI is up to



Mark LeMay (left) and Bud Earley (right) are always ready to smile and greet friends



Speaking about ICRI's new Certification Program is Peter Craig

The annual Project Awards Banquet is the highlight of any ICRI fall convention and our 17th gathering did not disappoint. Our emcee for the evening, Mark Nelson, Chair of the Awards Committee, began by thanking the panel of judges for their efforts. Each year the number of entries grows, and the Arizona-based panel did a great job reviewing all the submissions.

The Project Awards Banquet provides the opportunity for everyone to hear about the challenging work and exceptional achievements necessary to be an award winner. Not only did we honor our 2009 Project of the Year, but we also presented nine 2009 Awards of Excellence and 12 Awards of Merit. In true international fashion, winners came from all over the U.S., as well as Portugal, Chile, Colombia,

India, and Mexico. A special thanks and congratulations to those ICRI Project Award winners for their hard work, not only on the projects themselves but also on the high quality of all the entries we received.

Arizona provided some fantastic weather and gracious chapter hosts for another successful ICRI convention. ICRI wishes to thank all the attendees, exhibitors, sponsors, presenters, and award winners for joining us. We hope to see everyone at the ICRI 2010 Spring Convention in Myrtle Beach, SC, for an expanded 3-day convention, April 14-16, 2010. We are getting things done at ICRI and would like to extend an invitation for you to get involved. Make the most of your membership and come to a convention.



Ray Russo (left), Rosa Dooley (center), and Dave Flax (right) from the Arizona Chapter gather at the reception prior to the Awards Banquet



The Awards Banquet was hosted by Awards Committee Chair Mark Nelson



Award of Excellence winners Matt Frye (left) and Jay Thomas (right) from Structural Preservation Systems LLC



A group of winners from the 22 projects honored at the 2009 Project Awards ceremony